



PARRA NOTES

Friday, May 27

I hope everyone had a wonderful week. Let's all make sure we set aside some time, if just for a second this Monday to remember those that have lost their lives for our country...

Stopping by my Capitol office this week were **Cal State University Bakersfield President Horace Mitchell**, **Michael Neal** and **Michael Chertok**. On Tuesday, Systems Change Coordinator for the **Independent Living Center of Kern County Dennis Lewis** stopped by along with **July Bensusan**. I got to meet with **Debbie Moreno** and **Steven Teglia** from the **Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce**. The always smiling "uncle" **Les Clark** from the **Independent Oil Producers** also stopped by.

On Wednesday, I had the opportunity to meet with **Steve Newvine**, **Steve Geil**, **Kathy Bray**, **Victoria Salisch**, **Eric Johnson**, **Ken Maul** and **Ruth Evans** all from the **Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce**. We had an informal roundtable meeting where we discussed in depth the concerns of the valley along with **Assemblymembers Juan Arambula**, **Michael Villines** and **Senator Charles Poochigian**. I look forward to doing this again in the district with the rest of the valley delegation. I also had a wonderful time meeting with the 8th grade graduating class from **Maple School** in **Shafter**. Later in the day I got to meet with **Fresno area Superior Court Judge Brad R. Hill**, **Court Executive Officer Tamara Beard**, **past President of the State Bar of California Anthony P. Capozzi** and **Assistant United States Army Attorney Chief Mark E. Cullers**. In the evening I got to meet with **President Derek Robinson**, **Vice President Tim Holiday** and **Director Allan Montes** from the **Kern County Fire Fighters**.

Last but certainly not least, I want to wish **Barry Bedwell** from the **California Tree and Fruit League** in **Fresno** a **Happy Birthday**.

Legislative Update

Today is the last day for committees to meet prior to June 6th. So if you can imagine committees had a lot of work this week in deciding what bills they were going to approve to go to the Assembly floor for vote.

The Assembly Appropriations Committee was one of the busiest. They are responsible for reviewing all bills that have a fiscal impact to the state. This week alone, they were responsible for reviewing 10 of my bills. I am excited to report that they approved 9 of those. They are all now headed to the Assembly floor for vote. Below you will find a brief description of these bills.

On June 3rd, we face another important deadline. By this date all bills must leave the house of origin, meaning that all legislation that has successfully passed through committee must be voted on in the Assembly floor and if passed, sent to the Senate. I can assure you that I along with my Assembly colleagues will be here all week burning the midnight oil making sure that bills are moved to the Senate before the June 3rd deadline.

AB 31 Central San Joaquin Economic Empowerment will require the creation of an Interagency Task Force to aid in the economic development of the Central San Joaquin Valley by bringing state resources to the region.

AB 314 CYA Minimum Standards will require the California Youth Authority to complete a comprehensive study on newly committed wards to determine his or her educational, physical, and mental status and any substance abuse problems. Each ward would be provided with educational programs, counseling services and would be given quarterly case conferences to assess each wards progress.

AB 437 Megan's Law Conviction-Date on Web will require that an individual's conviction and prison release date be available on the Megan's law database.

AB 439 Megan's Law Conviction will clarify existing law regarding registration responsibilities. It makes it clear that an individual must continue to register even if their conviction is expunged. The bill would also require certain registered sex offenders to notify law enforcement of a change in address either in person, registered, or certified mail.

AB 460 Vet Quarantine will strengthen the ability for the State Veterinarian to implement quarantines to stop any outbreak from spreading rapidly. The bill will act as a preventative measure by creating standards for sanitation.

AB 466 Parks: Grant Process will require the Department of Parks and Recreation to adopt policy and procedures for project oversight and monitoring of the grant program for state or local park projects by June 30, 2006.

AB 677 Murder for Hire will include solicitation of murder as a "serious" offense in order to make individuals eligible for enhanced penalties under the Three Strikes Law.

AB 1110 Home-to- School Transportation Block Grant will ensure that the most under funded educational state program, home-to-school transportation, be given desperately needed funding. The bill will ensure that school transportation also be given a yearly cost of living increase. This would benefit rural school districts who have disproportionately higher transportation costs because they serve fewer students per square mile and as a result, must transport greater numbers of pupils over longer distances.

AB 1419 Banking Licenses: Chapter Forms will allow existing consumer finance licensees to notify the Department of Corporations when they open a new branch or relocate an existing branch without the necessity of completing an application and awaiting the Commissioners approval to do so. This bill will also require that licensees inform the Dept. of Corporations when any information that is on file with the Dept. changes.

Other Highlights

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TOWN HALL

On Saturday **June 18th** I will be hosting a Domestic Violence Town Hall Meeting from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the **Kern County Fire Fighters Hall** located at 3615 Mt. Vernon Avenue in Bakersfield. This event is open to the public. For more information please contact Juan Cerda at my Bakersfield District office at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at Juan.Cerda@asm.ca.gov.

HIGH SPEED RAIL WORKING GROUP

I am happy to report that I will be holding the first **High-Speed Rail Working Group** meeting on **June 1st** in the Capitol. The California High-Speed Rail Authority will be making an informational presentation. I will be updating you next week on what took place in the meeting.

GOT JOKES??

I am still looking for jokes to be submitted by none other than you, the residents of the **Central Valley** to be featured in my **Parra Notes**. So if you have any good jokes or even some pretty bad ones, e-mail them to my staffer Mary at mary.gutierrez@asm.ca.gov. Please include your name and the city you reside in. And yes, all jokes must be PG13.

FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE

On **July 9th** I will be hosting a Foster Care Conference at **California State University Bakersfield's Student Union Building** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. Joining me will be several organizations who will inform foster care youth and parents of available resources and rights. This event is open to the public. For more information please contact Juan Cerda at my Bakersfield District office at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at Juan.Cerda@asm.ca.gov.

HEALTH ADVISORY GROUP

The **Office of Statewide Planning and Development (OSHDP)** has offered to participate in a conference call to be tentatively held on **Monday, June 6th** from 9:30- 10:30 a.m. with members of my Health Advisory Group and anyone else interested. They will inform us on the various services their agency offers. If you are interested in participating please contact **Frank Stiger** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at Frank.Stiger@asm.ca.gov

SUMMER INTERNS WANTED

I am presently accepting applications for my summer internship program in my Hanford and Bakersfield district offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley.

Applications can be found at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>. For more details, please contact Jeff Forbes at the Hanford office at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at jeff.forbes@asm.ca.gov . For Bakersfield office internships please contact Manuel Barrera at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov

GRANTS

Beginning late June my office will be distributing grant packages. Included in the package will be information regarding, state, federal and private grants. For more information please contact Jeff Forbes at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at jeff.forbes@asm.ca.gov .

Joke of the Week

This week's Joke of the Week is brought to you by my Legislative Assistant **Shannon George**.

Q: Why do bicycles need a kick stand?

A: Because they are too tired.

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